Proposal to Open External Services Division (Tamil)

768. DR. D. MASTAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is considering to open External Services Division (Tamil) for broadcasting programmes for the benefit of lakhs of Tamils living in Arab countries; and

(b) whether there is any proposal for expanding the External Services Division (Tamil) meant for South East Asian nations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) No. Sir.

(b) No. Sir.

Indian Airlines to set up wholly-owned subsidiary

769. DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines propose to set up wholly-owned subsidiary to be called Allied Services;

(b) if so, the purpose of the move and the time, if any, decided/expected to start the new company; and

(c) in what way the company will be different from Vayudoot?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) A wholly-owned Company floated by Indian Airlines in 1983 known as Airlines Allied Services Limited is being activated with a view to ensure increased utilisation of B-737 aircraft and to serve regional needs. It will function under the overall control of Indian Airlines and make full use of infrastructure available with them. The Company will supplement the services of Indian Airlines and not compete with it.

Electricity lost due to backing down by Thermal Plants

770. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the units lost due to backing down by thermal plants in the country because of low load demand during 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95;

(b) whether the loss was approximately 9.7 billion units in 1993-94.

(c) if so, what part of those off-peak backing down would be shared by the IPPs, Central Power agencies and SEBs; and

(d) who would be the diciding authority for grid discipline when there is bilateral agreement between the IPPs and respective SEBs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABAN CHAMENBHAI PATEL): (a) The units lost due to backing down by thermal plant in the country during 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 were 8,640 billion units (BU), 7.939 BU and 7.663 BU respectively.

(b) During the year 1993-94 the actual loss due to backing down in the country was 7.939 BU.

(c) The sector-wise share of the units lost due to backing down are given as under:

Sector	Gen. loss due to backing down during 1993-94 (in billion units)
Central	2.646
State	4.430
Private	0.863
All India	7.939

(d) the concerned State Electricity Board is the deciding authority.

अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय विकास एजेंसी द्वारा सहायता में कटौती

771. **श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी:** क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय विकास एजेंसी द्वारा भारत को दी जाने वाली सहायता में भारी कटौती किये जाने की संभावना है और यदि हां, तो इसके कया कारण हैं; और

(ख) इस कटौती का आर्थिक स्थिति तथा चालू योजनाओं पर क्या प्रभाव पड़ेगा?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (डा० देवी प्रसाद पाल): (क) और (ख) हाल ही में, भारत और चीन जैसे देशों को अंतर्राष्ट्रीय विकास संघ से संबंधित सहायता को कम करने के संबंध में इस आधार पर विचार-विमर्श हुआ है कि ये देश निजी निवेश को आकर्षित कर सकते हैं। तथापि, इस पर विपरीत तर्क प्रस्तुत किया गया है कि इस प्रकार की निजी निधियां गरीबी कम करने/सामाजिक क्षेत्र के कार्यक्रमों को वित्त पोषित नहीं करते हैं। इस बात को ध्यान में रखते हुए कि अंतर्राष्ट्रीय विकास संघ के समर्थन का मर्म गरीबी हटाने और सामाजिक क्षेत्र के कार्यक्रमों से संबंधित है, भारत का पक्ष मजबूत होता है। तथापि, इस प्रकार के मामले केवल विचार-विमर्श तक ही हैं और किसी अंतिम अवस्था तक नहीं पहुंचे हैं।

फिर भी, विश्व बैंक द्वारा प्रकाशित लेख "भारतः देश सहायता योजना" के अनुसार, अंतर्राष्ट्रीय विकास संघ से भारत के लिए आई डी ए/वां चक्र (वित्तीय वर्ष-93-95) के दौरान तीन वर्षीय ऋपाद कार्यक्रम 3.47 बिलियन अमरीकी डालर का था। आई डी ए / वें चक्र (वित्तीय वर्ष 96-98) के दौरान पूर्वानुमानित ऋपाद कार्यक्रम 3.6 बिलियन अमरीकी डालर का है।

Excise duty evasion by Reliance Industries

772. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 508 given in Rajya Sabha on the 3rd May, 1994 and State:

(a) the details of progress made in the case at Serial No. 3 of the statement annexed to the question under reference;

(b) the progress made in regard to the other cases stated in the said statement;

(c) the action taken by Government thereon;

(d) whether Central Excise and Customs Adjudicating Tribunal is taking unduly long periods in finalising the cases;

(e) if so, steps taken by Government; and

(f) the number of cases pending with CEGAT as on date; since when are they pending with it and by what time are these likely to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY) (a) In the case referred to in the question a demand for Rs. 1.09 crores was confirmed vide adjudicating order dated 25.5.1993. A penalty of Rs. 25 lakhs and a fine of Rs. 10 lakhs in lieu of confiscation of plant and machinery were imposed on M/S Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL). M/s RIL have deposited Rs. 10 lakhs and executed a Bank guarantee for Rs. 25 lakh in terms of stay order passed by Customs, Excise and Gold (Control) Appellate Tribunal (CEGAT). The appeal is still pending before the Tribunal.

(b) and (c) Information is given in the enclosed statement (*See* below).

(d) to (f) 52,366 appeals were pending with CEGAT as on 1.11.1995 and the oldest case pertains to year 1976. To reduce the number of pending cases, vacant posts of Members are being filled up and legislative change for expediting disposal has been introduced as per the Finance Act, 1995. However, no time frame can be laid regarding finalisation of the cases as old cases are pending mainly due to stay granted by the courts.